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METRO TALKS: Election leaders

Nova Scotia Votes

My decisions in best interest of province: McNeil

**Haley
Ryan**
Metro | Halifax

Despite contention with Nova Scotia teachers, filmmakers, nurses, and different areas of the public sector, Premier Stephen McNeil says he's always acted in the interest of the whole province — and “if you're looking to be liked this is the wrong job to be applying for.”

In an interview with Metro this week, McNeil said it's more important to have friends and family like you, and your constituents respect you, when asked about how he individually polls behind his own Liberal party.

“I think people have over the last three and a half years, whether they liked the decision I made, recognized that I made it because I believed it was in the best interest of all of us,” McNeil said.

As the government, McNeil said you have to make decisions “within the envelope” you're given, and extended contract negotiations came out of the need to “slow down growth of salaries” in the public sector, so money could go into pre-primary and tax cuts for low- and middle-income families.

When asked about his thoughts on the perception many voters have that politicians can't be trusted to deliver on those promises, especially in an election cycle, McNeil said meeting someone in person cuts through that.



NICK HUBLEY/FOR METRO

**‘I’ve lost elections,
I’ve won elections,
and I’ve always
respected
the voter’**

- On relationship with unions: ‘It’s obviously been challenging’
- On perception he doesn’t take assault victims seriously: ‘I think my actions would speak otherwise’
- On all the construction in downtown Halifax: ‘It’s been positive for the province’

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Canada 'means freedom'

IMMIGRATION

New Canadians sworn in at citizenship ceremony



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

Proudly wearing custom made T-shirts proclaiming their new status as Canadian citizens, Issam Khoury and Abba Katbeh couldn't keep the smiles from their faces.

The Syrian couple came to Canada nine years ago. On Wednesday, they joined 51 other new Canadians at a special citizenship ceremony held at Mount Saint Vincent University in celebration of the country's 150th birthday.

"Since we landed (nine years ago) I have felt personally and I remember even my son saying 'This is the first time I feel I am home,'" Katbeh recalled.

"We lived everywhere. We lived in England, in Jordan, in Lebanon. My son said when we got here 'I am home.' I always felt that I am Canadian since we came. It's just now we are officially Canadian. It really is home."

Khoury said freedom and being part of a great community were among the many reasons he was grateful to be among the newest batch of Canadians.

Florence Busabimana smiled broadly as she tried to describe what it felt to have taken the oath and become a Canadian citizen.

The 25-year-old came to Canada from Rwanda six years ago.



Issam Khoury and his wife Abba Katbeh officially became proud Canadian citizens on Wednesday. NICK HUBLEY/FOR METRO

"For me, to become Canadian it means freedom. A lot of freedom. It means safety and a lot of opportunities that I wasn't able to get. It means a lot," Busabimana said.

"I can't express all that it means to me. I'm super happy and I'm very, very excited. When

we were saying the oath, it melted my heart."

Rouba Ibrahim and her husband Sherzad Ibrahim arrived in Halifax from Syria on July 23, 2012. The couple said they will always remember the day they arrived in the country that immediately welcomed them and

became home.

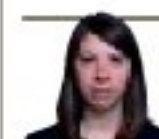
"For us Canada has heart. To accept us to be part of Canada and now to be Canadian today? It means a lot to us to be Canadian and to carry the name of Canada and to represent this amazing country everywhere we go," Sherzad said.

+ CEREMONY

The ceremony was hosted by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and the Institute for Canadian Citizenship.

SCHOOLS

Review asks for feedback



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Kids in Cole Harbour could eventually go to a high school campus model, while some junior highs and elementaries would close if the school board agrees to the current school review options.

Hundreds of parents, kids, Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) members, politicians and more came out to Cole Harbour High on Wednesday for the final public meeting of the Cole Harbour/Auburn Drive family review.

School Options Committee (SOC) co-chairs, Corrie Anderson and Shannon Parsons, outlined how the review was tackling under-utilization of the 17 schools, and suggested that Cole Harbour and Auburn Drive high schools should become one student body under a new name, with kids going back and forth between both buildings because they still have great infrastructure. For the four junior highs, the SOC is recommending a Grade 7-8 configuration for Graham Creighton and Astral Drive, with both Sir Robert Borden and Ross Road's junior high (it's currently a P-9) being declared surplus and closing.

The SOC put forward three options to get more feedback on elementaries, since they are more complicated, Anderson said.

The SOC will now write up a final report to be sent to the HRSB by early June. The board has 60 days to bring it up for decision at a regular public meeting.



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METRO TALKS: Election leaders

Nova Scotia Votes

'I'll let the people decide'

In an interview this week, Liberal leader and Premier Stephen McNeil sat down with Metro to discuss campaign issues as part of a series leading up to the May 30 election. This is fourth in a series of sit-down interviews with the leaders of each political party in the provincial election



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Is it fair to judge a government on one term?

That's up to the people, I'll let them decide. I'm obviously looking for a second term. We've done a lot if you look at the restructuring of health-care, putting investments back in the classrooms. We've obviously had some very difficult conversations with public sector unions around making sure that the growth and salaries and benefits reflect our ability to pay, at the same time we're looking to invest in classrooms and health care. But ultimately that's our electoral cycle, and the people will determine whether or not we get a second term.

Given that and the rehiring and continued defence around Kyle Harris, what would you say to the perception that some Nova Scotians feel you're not taking victim's concerns seriously?

I think my actions would speak otherwise. I've just laid out what we've done in and around the bench, I've laid out what legislation we've done around sexual assault, the only government in the history of this province that's brought in a sexual assault strategy. But having said all of that, Kyle Harris has gone through the court system, made a mistake, did restitution, accepted full responsibility for it, talked to organizations who are dealing with women who are victims of assault. They want to see people who have gone through the court system, accepted the responsibility and I think that's an important part of that, not to be held down forever. But I understand the feelings that people were feeling, and Kyle has stepped away. My goal is for him to hopefully, as it is for all Nova Scotians, is to rebuild their lives and get back on their feet.

You mentioned bringing in the ability to change your gender marker on a birth certificate, but besides that what have you done for LGBTQ people and why should they vote for you? I think the appointment of the first LGBTQ member to the bench is a reflection of how



Premier Stephen McNeil answers questions from Metro Halifax inside our Barrington Street office this week. NICK HUBLEY/FOR METRO

I want all Nova Scotians to see themselves in our important institutions. I appointed the first openly gay member to the cabinet, Minister Bernard. Continuing to work and make sure that people see themselves in a reflection is to this community, to the African Nova Scotian community, one of the things that became loud and clear to me when I became premier.

How do you view the development in Halifax and what's your vision for the downtown?

I think the development that's taken place has been positive for downtown, it's been positive for the province. We came into power, one of the first governments in decades to ... take provincial money and provide it to the HRM around transit, that was an important piece for us. Across the harbour we bought COVE as a province because we see that as an incubation hub, not only for startups but a collaboration of ocean-tech companies where our goal is ultimately to have an ocean cluster.

If you look at ensuring that we have some affordable housing in the area, and Minister Bernard's been working hard with our landlords. We see HRM as the engine of the province, we're trying to figure out how do we build off of that in some of our rural communities. **We hear a lot about voter**

apathy, especially youth engagement, but student groups have expressed frustration the election was called for May 30 when most of them aren't around.

No matter when the election's called it would impact people in different ways. That's just the reality of our professions and our careers, and institutions that we're all part of. Ultimately I'd rather lose with a high turnout than win with a low turnout, we want more and more people engaged in the process, it's critical that we do, and it goes back to where I think people need to see themselves in the process, we need to continue to work hard at that.

There have been challenges related to that, particularly with younger voters. That's why if you go back and look, some of our largest

successes of government has been the fact that we've reduced youth unemployment, we've retained more young people per capita than any other Canadian province, we've focused our targets on university and community college graduates when we're working with the private sector on wage subsidies to be able to give them their first job in Nova Scotia.

How would you define your relationship with unions in the province?

Anytime you're looking at negotiating on wages and benefits it's always difficult for governments, but I've worked with unions on other aspects of it. That part of it, it's obviously been challenging, it has been one that has been well documented, well written about. Other aspects of it, I worked with the NSGEU

5 fun facts about Stephen McNeil

1 Favourite food?

I enjoy fast food, but at my age I've had to shift a little bit so that's a treat these days. I prefer fish more than anything, and I've changed my fries to a salad.

2 Favourite movie?

On Golden Pond. Katherine Hepburn and Jane Fonda. It's a couple that is aging, and a relationship between a father and a daughter, his lack of understanding and how he evolved as a parent, which kind of turned him into a lovable character.

3 Favourite band/musician?

I'm a Johnny Cash fan. I also enjoy Coldplay.

4 When did you last take the bus and where did you go?

I'm not sure the last time I would've been on transit because I don't live here. It would have been quite some time ago. I'm a rural member so I live in rural Nova Scotia.

5 What's your drink of choice after a long day?

White wine. I prefer the Tidal Bay. As a rural kid, I enjoy my beer as well.

to ensure PTSD legislation on the table in the House. They saw it, made sure that they were in agreement with it. We worked on that to make sure that reflected who they were. I worked with the nurses' union on workplace safety.

Outside of that is the stuff that doesn't get the flashy headline, but anytime you're talking about salary and benefits, it's always challenging. The difficulty is they have a responsibility to the membership, I have a responsibility to the entire province, so when you're sitting down at the table sometimes you

don't always agree.

What happens if there's minority government? For you would that be seen as a failure?

That would be up to the voters. I've never questioned the voters of the province of Nova Scotia. I've lost elections, I've won elections, and I've always respected the voter at the end of the day, and I've always said this: when the voters make their decision, it is then up to the elected officials to figure out how to make it work.

This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

Liberals release election platform

Nova Scotia's Liberals have released an election platform that includes \$1.08 billion in spending commitments and tax cuts over four years.

The platform is based on last month's budget that was tabled but not voted on in the legislature and contains a number of promises that were already announced on the campaign trail.

A new initiative not previously announced is a rent

LAST OF THREE

The Liberals are the last of the three main parties to officially announce a platform for the May 30 vote.

supplement expansion aimed at reducing the wait list for affordable housing by 30 per

cent, and would top up the total amount spent on the program to nearly \$30 million a year by the fourth year.

There are also two significant shifts in health care that include allowing doctors to choose where and how they practice and a signalling that a Liberal government is open to creating more long term care beds if needed, although no numbers or costs were in-

cluded.

The Liberals had already promised several major initiatives in the budget that are also part of their platform, including a pledge to reduce taxes for 500,000 low- and middle-income earners and a pre-primary initiative for four-year-olds that would include 9,000 children by 2020 at an annual cost of about \$49 million..

THE CANADIAN PRESS



An aerial view of William Sandeson's family's property in Truro displayed in Nova Scotia Supreme Court. The property was searched for days in August 2015. ZANE WOODFORD/METRO

Farm search unsuccessful

SANDESON TRIAL

Police sifted through cow manure, pond for evidence



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

Police sifted through manure and drained a pond at William Sandeson's family's farm in Truro, but didn't find Taylor Samson's body, the jury heard in Sandeson's first-degree murder trial Wednesday.

Sandeson, 24, is accused of killing Samson, 22, on Aug. 15, 2015. Samson's body was never found.

The jury heard from Halifax Regional Police forensic identification officer Sgt. Andre Habib on Wednesday.

Habib was involved in collecting forensic evidence in the case at Sandeson's apartment at 1210 Henry St., at his brother's house on Chestnut Street, and at the Sandeson family farm

in Truro.

At that farm, Habib worked with ground search and rescue teams to search the large property for three days starting on Aug. 28, 2015.

Habib told the jury he spent much of that time sifting through cow manure on the property after a police cadaver dog indicated it contained human remains. Even though police were told there were dead cows in the pile, Habib said he still searched through it completely, looking for Samson's body. He found nothing.

A cadaver dog also indicated there were human remains in a pond on the property. Police had the pond drained by a local company, but found nothing.

The court also heard from Cpl. Jody Allison on Wednesday, who interviewed Sandeson for nine hours the day after his arrest.

The jury saw video of that interview earlier in the trial.

On the stand Wednesday, Allison said Sandeson's demeanour during the interview varied from very calm to "at times almost inconsolable."

The trial is expected to resume at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday.

HAMMONDS PLAINS

Man dies in truck, motorcycle crash

A 42-year-old man from Hammonds Plains is dead after the motorcycle he was driving collided with a pickup truck in Bedford.

The collision happened Wednesday just before 10 a.m. on Rocky Lake Drive.

"The motorcycle and truck were travelling in opposite

directions when the collision occurred. The cause is under investigation at this time," a police statement said.

The driver of the truck wasn't hurt.

Police say the victim's next of kin has been notified but his name won't be released.

METRO STAFF

Halifax DIGEST

NDP wouldn't move forward with outpatient centre

The New Democrats say they wouldn't build an outpatient centre in Halifax's Bayers Lake business park.

Instead, NDP Leader Gary Burrill said he will work with patients, health care providers and the city to find the best location.

He said the lack of public transit to Bayers Lake would put seniors and others who rely on public transit at a disadvantage. Burrill said

the new site would put the needs of patients first.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ejected Tory candidate going out swinging

An ejected Tory candidate is trading fresh barbs with the party's leader — and said she is looking into continuing her bid for public office.

Jad Crnogorac was dropped as the Tories' Dartmouth South candidate over a Twitter joke she made about a date-rape drug

known as "roofies," and other social media postings.

She complains the Tories have a double-standard because they stood by a male candidate who jokingly acted out what he called a "Chinese fire drill" in an online video. But Tory Leader Jamie Baillie maintains the latest case differs from one involving Matt Whitman, who Baillie said apologized and had no intent to hurt anyone.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Baillie would foot bill for cancer patient meds

Progressive Conservatives are promising to foot the bill for cancer medications taken at home.

Tory Leader Jamie Baillie said Nova Scotians in cancer treatment shouldn't have to worry about how they will pay for it. He said a Progressive Conservative government would invest \$1.8 million a year to extend cancer drug coverage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RUSSIAN INVESTIGATION

Special counsel appointed for probe

Besieged from all sides, the Trump administration appointed former FBI director Robert Mueller as a special counsel to oversee the federal investigation into allegations Russia and Donald Trump's campaign collaborated to influence the 2016 presidential election.

The appointment came as Democrats insisted ever more loudly that someone outside Trump's Justice Department must handle the politically

charged investigation.

An increasing number of Republicans, too, have joined in calling for Congress to dig deeper, especially after Trump fired FBI director James Comey who had been leading the bureau's probe.

Earlier Wednesday, Trump complained in a commencement address that "no politician in history" has been treated worse by his foes, even as exasperated fellow Republicans

slowly joined the clamour for a significant investigation into whether he tried to quash the FBI's probe.

Three congressional committees, all led by Republicans, confirmed they wanted to hear from Comey, whose notes about a February meeting with the president indicate that Trump urged him to drop the bureau's investigation of fired national security adviser Michael Flynn.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ MARKETS

The growing political drama in Washington rattled Wall Street Wednesday, knocking the Dow Jones industrial average down more than 370 points and giving the stock market its biggest single-day slump in eight months.



Lenard Monkman said the award would encourage more young Indigenous writers to come forward. Contributed

Recognizing Indigenous writers

EQUALITY

'Most positive outcome' from appropriation controversy



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

When he co-founded the Red Rising Magazine, community organizer and Indigenous journalist Lenard Monkman wanted to offer a platform for an accurate reflection of the First Nations communities.

"For far too long our voices have been misappropriated, and our stories have been told from a deficit point of view," he said. "We have a beautiful culture and beautiful ceremonies but all you hear is negative stuff in the media."

An effort currently underway in Toronto to create a literary award recognizing Indigenous voices sounded like music to his ears. Lawyer Robin Parker launched an online fundraising campaign this week with the goal of supporting upcoming Indigenous writers. It was partly a response to the ongoing debate over cultural appropri-

+ EXTRA

In wake of "Appropriation Prize" controversy, Canadian media editors have resigned or been reassigned, including Write's Hal Niedzviecki, The Walrus' Jonathan Kay and CBC The National's Steve Ladurantaye.

tion — which was sparked by an editorial in Write magazine that advocated for the creation of the "appropriation prize."

In just over two days, Parker's campaign has raised over \$30,000, beyond her initial goal of \$10,000. She says she's reaching out to Indigenous organizations across the country so they can be the ones who manage the award.

"That would be extremely important in encouraging young indigenous writers to continue to tell our own stories," said Monkman, who will moderate a panel discussion on Indigenous Voices Rising next month at the Toronto Reference Library.

Journalists for Human Rights' executive director Rachel Pulfer called the award initiative the "most positive outcome" from the appropriation controversy.

WINNIPEG

Charges laid in killing of Fontaine's cousin

Police have charged three men in the killing of a cousin of Tina Fontaine, a teenager whose death fuelled calls for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Police in Winnipeg say Jeanenne Chantel Fontaine, 29,

was shot in March before the home she was in was set on fire.

She was later taken off life-support.

"She was not the intended victim in this matter," an officer said at a news conference Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MARTIN REGG COHN ON FEDERAL NDP HOPEFUL JAGMEET SINGH



Singh may be the new kid on the federal block, but his declared rivals dare not underestimate him.

In a party of negativity, he personifies positivity.

The federal NDP has found a phenomenon in Jagmeet Singh, its latest leadership hopeful. By throwing his hat in the ring, if not quite his stylish turban, Singh has thrown down the gauntlet to New Democrats. And all Canadians.

Is the NDP ready for Jagmeet Singh Jimmy Dhaliwal, whose full name evokes Canadian diversity? And does he have what it takes to take over the Prime Minister's Office?

Singh is often compared to the current occupant, Justin Pierre James Trudeau — son of Pierre Elliott Trudeau, whose name embodied Canadian duality (before multiculturalism and First Nations reclaimed their rightful place).

Both exude energy and style, athleticism and enthusiasm. Each is a fighter — Trudeau a boxer, Singh a mixed martial arts expert.

Like Trudeau, Singh is not yet fully formed as he seeks his party's leadership. But like the oft-underestimated prime

minister, Singh has natural talent and great growth potential — major considerations in any political contest.

As deputy leader of Ontario's NDP, Singh has served as poster child for a party trying to reposition itself from a mostly white base to a multicultural demographic. The son of a psychiatrist and teacher who emigrated from India; born in Scarborough, raised in Newfoundland and Windsor; educated in law and schooled in street politics; proficient in both official languages, he is an all-Canadian success story. Bicycling across Toronto in tailor-made three-piece suits, topped by pink or orange turbans, he blazed a trail for Sikhs. But not every journey is a juggernaut, and the road from his Brampton riding to Ottawa will put Singh through his political paces.

At home he is a local hero, inspiring brigades of young volunteers and drawing support from a South Asian voting bloc. Outside Ontario he still has to prove himself, but his candidacy will also be a test for both party and country.

How will his turban and kirpan play in Quebec, a province

whose political classes keep debating legal bans on the wearing of religious symbols, and whose voters punished the NDP for defending burkas in the last federal election? Is the rest of the country ready?

Will Singh's playful banter and fist bumps work with working people? Will his aspirational policies and generalities suffice for a party that prides itself on progressive but sometimes unpopular ideas?

Trudeau's emphasis on both ability and winnability worked well with Liberals, but could be a hard sell in an NDP leadership race. Trudeau had a strong team of advisers and organizers, while some of Singh's brain trust and ground game remain untested.

Judging by his campaign speech, Singh's platform — like the candidate himself — remains a work in progress. He promised "loving and courageous" ideas, but stuck to predictable chapter headings: "inequality, climate change, reconciliation with indigenous communities, and electoral reform." Details to come.

Echoing Barack Obama's "audacity of hope," and Justin Trudeau's "sunny ways,"

Singh's campaign credo is "love and courage." Which sounds lovely, but doesn't display much courage, let alone audacity.

The last time we talked, Singh made it clear he wasn't taking a leap on the Leap Manifesto (whose resistance to resource extraction drove a wedge within the party's Alberta wing, which happens to be in power). His personal passions are human rights and inequality — not always top of mind for voters — but he understands retail politics, long crusading for lower auto insurance rates.

Singh may be the new kid on the federal block, but his declared rivals dare not underestimate him. Charlie Angus, the veteran MP from northern Ontario, is perhaps his best-known competitor but suffers by comparison.

While Angus bespeaks old school, Singh's bespoke suits are something new. Angus is dowdy, Singh dapper.

Singh is endowed with a disarming mix of personal humility and sartorial vanity, confidence and presence, that makes him stand out in any room. After dumping their dour leader, Thomas Mulcair, the NDP may be in the mood for a return to the "happy warrior" motif of former leader Jack Layton that resonated with voters.

Which is to say New Democrats may be more tempted by saffron than spinach.

Martin Regg Cohn is a Toronto Star columnist.

The Trump train is about to crash. Jump off now.



Vinay Menon
Torstar News Service

There are many mysteries in the universe: The statues on Easter Island. The Unicorn Frappuccino. But the biggest mystery of all is how anyone with a working brain can still cheer for Donald Trump.

On Tuesday evening, as the words "obstruction of justice" and "impeachment" shot into the Washington air like firecrackers, Jeffrey Lord reprised his role as the president's chief toady on CNN to inform viewers: "We are once again in high-tech lynching mode."

There was a glint of forlorn defeat in his eyes, like a man who keeps trying to convince his adult children the tooth fairy is real. Lord decided to board the Make America Great Again Express a long time ago. Now that it has derailed, he's trapped inside the wreckage, blaming everyone except the conductor. And he's not alone.

At the midway point of Trump's worst week in office — and that's saying something — his travelling band of surrogates, liars, bootlickers, enablers, brown-nosers and excuse-makers are in quite a bind.

They can cling to fantasy or reality. Fantasy: Trump is a victim of anything other than gross incompetence. Reality: Trump is on the verge of implosion and they are destined to become collateral damage.

Instead of defending the indefensible, Lord might give some thought to escaping. What he can't do is expect

things to get better. They are only going to get worse.

What more can Trump do to make this clear? Twist off the heads of live kittens on national television? Invade Canada?

This week we learned Trump handles highly sensitive classified information the way a grade-schooler treats a cooties secret. We learned he asked the FBI to stop investigating his inner circle.

We learned what we already knew: Trump is so unfit for public office, so incapable of not shooting himself in the foot while wearing his socks on his ears, the world would be better off if the Oval Office were occupied by a Talking Elmo glued atop a Roomba. There'd be much less danger and the floors would be clean.

It's one thing for Fox News, a longtime outpost for Republican talking points, to ignore, deflect or downplay the latest bombshells. Fox is the equivalent of North Korean state media. Any network that employs Lou Dobbs, Tucker Carlson and Sean Hannity — the axis of doofus — is not a network that is serious about reality.

But that still leaves a startling number of presumably decent people like Lord who have nothing to gain and everything to lose by continuing to shelter Trump from a crap storm of the president's making.

This week, Trump proved the Never Trumpers were always right. So the Trumpers Forever now have a choice: escape the mangled wreckage or perish inside.

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Revealing all secrets of small-town life

BOOKS

Why Elizabeth Strout believes anything truly is possible

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

A funny thing happened years after Elizabeth Strout's linked-story collection *Olive Kitteridge* won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize. Strout discovered a group of women in Greenwich, Connecticut, were meeting every Monday to "talk their Oliveness out" at the local Starbucks in honour of her misanthropic protagonist, an outspoken retired small-town teacher who compulsively alienates everyone around her.

"They were very Greenwich in the sense that they were well-off and had their pearls in their ears," says Strout. "They were not even remotely my idea of someone who would appreciate Olive."

As *Olive Kitteridge* was being adapted into a multiple Emmy Award-winning HBO miniseries starring Frances McDormand, Strout was busy crafting another complex character. In *My Name is Lucy Barton*, a successful author reunites with her estranged mother and recalls horrific memories of her lonely poverty-stricken childhood.

Lucy returns in Strout's new linked story collection, *Anything is Possible*, and although she only makes a brief physical appearance, her presence (and newly published memoir) still haunts many residents of the fictional Maine hometown.

Strout, who calls herself a

"very messy worker," says her desk is always covered in pieces of paper, many of which became the genesis for *Anything is Possible*.

She sketched out most of the stories while still writing *My Name is Lucy Barton*, realizing "I had these nuggets of information of these people."

Small-town life through Strout's vision of humanity — she is guided by a sense of intuition about her characters — includes closeted gay husbands, a Vietnam vet with PTSD, a wife who participates in her rich husband's assaults on other women and a poignant yet painful mother-daughter reunion.

"I never judge my characters when I'm writing about them," Strout says. "That's the fun part of my job, to not have judgement at all and just let them do whatever it they're going to do and be who they are."

Like many of her characters, Strout spent some of her childhood in a small Maine town, in a home connected to nearby relatives via a dirt road. Her parents didn't believe in frivolous entertainment like television, which meant Strout had to rely on her inner resources for amusement.

"I spent a great deal of time alone and there wasn't a lot of stimulation," she says. "I understood from a young age how to live in my head. I was also able to observe an awful lot and note a lot of details. I was always curious about what it felt like to be another person."

It's not as if Strout's characters are trapped in time, but they do reside outside of our cultural obsessions. They will never end up on Instagram seeking likes for their food



Elizabeth Strout's Lucy Barton returns in her new collection *Anything is Possible*. CONTRIBUTED

pics, or modelling for selfies in bar washrooms. She writes passionately about those who are more concerned with just getting by in the world. "I'm just so interested in the most ordinary kind of person," Strout says. "Someone who is just living their lives. I'm so interested in the inner world — everybody has one."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

Smith comes to Netflix defence

CANNES

Palme d'Or jury is split on the merits of online films

Peter Howell
life@metronews.ca

The war of big vs. small movie screens at the Cannes Film Festival heated up Wednesday as Palme d'Or jury president Pedro Almodovar declared that prizes shouldn't be given to online-only films.

"I personally would not conceive not only the Palme d'Or but any other prize being given to a film and then not being able to see this film on the large screen," the veteran Spanish filmmaker told an international press audience on the festival's opening day.

Calling it "the debate of this year," Almodovar was clearly re-

ferring to the two Netflix films among the 19 competing for the Palme: Bong Joon-ho's sci-fi fantasy *Okja*, starring Tilda Swinton and Jake Gyllenhaal; and Noah Baumbach's *The Meyerowitz Stories*, a dysfunctional-family drama starring Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson, Adam Sandler and Ben Stiller.

Online giant Netflix has caused a furor in Cannes for refusing to commit to a traditional theatrical release in France of the two films prior to online distribution. Cannes has fought back by saying Netflix, which is in the Palme competition for the first time this year, won't be allowed into the 2018 festival unless it changes its policy.

Almodovar obviously sides with the festival, but his statement, read out in Spanish, English and French, was highly unusual given his leading role on the nine-member jury. The other jurors are Hollywood actors Will Smith and Jessica Chastain, German writer/director Maren Ade (Toni Erdmann); Chinese actress

Fan Bingbing (*X-Men: Days of Future Past*); French actress/singer/filmmaker Agnès Jaoui (*The Taste of Others*); South Korean writer/director Park Chan-wook (*Oldboy*); Italian writer/director Paolo Sorrentino (*The Great Beauty*); and French-Lebanese composer Gabriel Yared (*Xavier Dolan's It's Only the End of the World*).

Normally, the jurors and their president go out of their way at the start of Cannes to declare their impartiality regarding the films they will be viewing and judging over the 12-day festival.

Almodovar obviously thinks the battle to preserve big-screen dominance is too important to ignore, even if it effectively suggest that *Okja* and *The Meyerowitz Stories* now have little chance of winning the Palme at festival's end on May 28, no matter how much the jury may like them.

He said he's willing to "acknowledge (and) celebrate the new technologies and the possibilities that they offer to us," but he'll stop short of giving



Jury president Pedro Almodovar (left) with fellow jury members Jessica Chastain and Will Smith at the 70th International Cannes Film Festival Tuesday. AP PHOTO/ALASTAIR GRANT

them prizes if they result in films destined only to appear on TV and computer screens.

"I do acknowledge them, but (as long as I'm alive, I'll be fighting for one thing that I'm afraid the new generation is not aware of: the capacity of hypnosis of the large screen for the viewer."

Almodovar's attack on Netflix caused some discomfort for actor Smith, sitting near him. His new film *Bright*, a fantasy cop thriller co-starring Noomi Rapace, is scheduled for a Netflix-only release in December.

Smith rose to the defence of Netflix, saying he uses the service at home and his family also enjoy regular visits to movie theatres.

"I have a 16-year-old and an 18-year-old and a 24-year-old at home. They go to the movies twice a week, and they watch Netflix. There's very little cross between going to the cinema and watching what they watch on Netflix."

Netflix allows Smith's children to "watch films they otherwise wouldn't have seen. It has broadened my children's global cinematic comprehension."

Smith was an unusual pick for the Cannes jury, given his career as one of the world's biggest stars, which normally lands him in blockbusters like *Men in Black*, *Bad Boys* and *Suicide Squad* rather than artier fare.

He joked about how he's excited about being on the Cannes jury, and he intends to watch closely and learn from the experience.


Smith admitted, though, to being shocked when his agent told him he'd have to watch three films per day for the better part of two weeks, with screenings beginning as early as 8:30 a.m. each day.


"I was probably 14 years old the last time I watched three movies in a day," he said.

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Ashley Graham sizes up the fashion biz in memoir

INTERVIEW

Seeing is believing in vision boards, role models

Ashley Graham may have curves, but she hates the term plus-size.

"Does any woman really just come in and say, 'I'm a plus-size woman'? Maybe as a defence mechanism or maybe as a way to kind of cope with fitting into society but ... I just think it's divisive. I think labelling and putting a name on women in certain categories because (of) a (size) number inside of their pants isn't really getting us any farther in life."

She made it into the mainstream when she appeared on the cover of the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit 2016 issue. That led to other opportunities, including the cover of Vogue magazine and a gig as a judge on America's Next Top Model.

Now she's written a memoir: *A New Model: What Confidence, Beauty & Power Really Look Like*.

She talked about her role models, achievements and critics in a recent interview.

You're an advocate for healthy body acceptance. How is the fashion industry responding?
The fashion industry is into it. I think what's really great is the fashion industry has really said, 'You know what, we're about inclusion right now.' We've had the body era. We've had the waif era, now here we are in the inclusivity era and it's race, it's age, it's gender, it's size.

You're known for your curves but you've been criticized when it appears that you've lost weight. What do you say to that?

My weight is going to go up and down but, also, nobody can dictate what I'm doing. I'm a true size 14, I'm happy with my body, nobody has



Here we are in the inclusivity era and it's race, it's age, it's gender, it's size.

Ashley Graham

dictatorship over who I am.

You write about fashion and curvy girls and how hard it is to find great clothes in bigger sizes.

I don't know who's making those clothes. I'm ready to come out with a line of clothes that's affordable, that's for all sizes. The beauty of being a curvier girl is that we're all shaped so differently. But it's sad because I really think there's a lot of designers who do go up to a size 22, 24 but buyers are not buying them because they don't think we're gonna come in and buy it. So, it's a vicious cycle, and I don't know

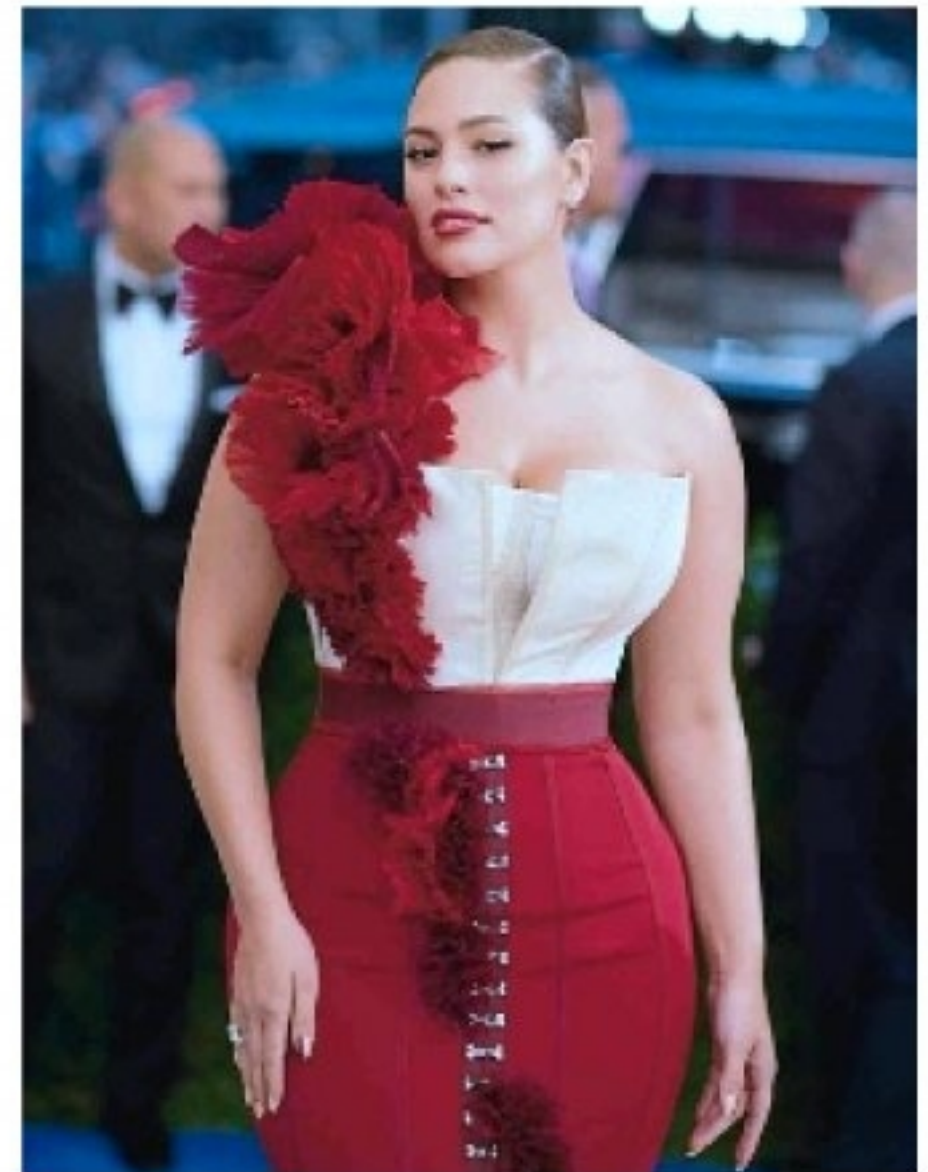
where it starts and stops ... all I know is I'm talking about it and there are some designers who have been very open. Prabal Gurung is one who put curvy girls on the runway. Christian Siriano and Michael Kors, too, so it's happening.

You have a stylist and you know designers. Have any said they won't dress you?

I haven't experienced first-hand negative feelings of designers not dressing me because of my size, but if I did ... you'd hear about it.

You're a believer in vision boards.

Vision boards are so important. If it's not even an actual vision board up in your room, then write down what you want. There's really something about getting it out and putting (it on) paper or a corkboard or whatever your thing is. I'm not a DIY girl whatsoever. It's really for me to be able to see some-



Ashley Graham says no one can dictate who she is. GETTY IMAGES

thing before I go to bed and when I wake up in the morning to remember what I want, but also to say, you know what, let god's will be done and hopefully this

works out. I had Sports Illustrated on there, I had Vogue on there. It took me a couple years for the whole vision board to happen, but here we are. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Poor Elise has the real problem

THE SHOW: *The Real Housewives of Toronto, Season 1, Episode 7*
THE MOMENT: Elise!

"You look very business professional," assistant Elise assures Real Housewife Roxy, her flamboyant boss, as they enter a "business meeting" with Somen Mondal, a pal of Roxy's rich hubby.

Roxy has an idea for an app to allow women to shop each other's closets. "Because I never want to wear something more than once and I imagine the

general public is the same," she says breezily. She has "entrepreneurship in my blood" — she just doesn't know what that entails.

Mondal advises, "Step one, build a pitch deck." Roxy's face goes blank. "Are you getting this, Elise?" she asks. Elise scribbles in a notebook. Mondal suggests a funding plan. "Did you get that down, Elise?" Roxy asks.

"Traction," Mondal says. "Traction, Elise," Roxy parrots.

Dear Millennial Elise, with your calm gaze and your pen,

this is my ode to you. This entire season had precisely one controversy: Joan got drunk, Kara gossiped about it. This just in: Canadians are polite.

But you, Elise, you are the one I wonder about. Do you have a B.A. from a worthy university mouldering in your bedside table drawer? Do you enjoy costuming your ostentatiously idle boss and then complimenting her, or was that "business professional" a secret slam?

I see you, Elise. You are seen.

BY YASMINA REZA
TRANSLATED BY CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON
David Christoffel, Rob McClure and Jeff Schwager

Neptune
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A new beginning for newcomers

Financial program helps new Canadians build their future

For immigrants, foreign workers and international students new to Canada, one of the first priorities is getting on a firm financial footing.

Opening an account with a Canadian bank doesn't just address immediate needs — like building savings or establishing a credit rating — it also helps set long-term goals like buying a home or getting a business loan.

To help newcomers build a strong financial foundation in Canada, Scotiabank in 2008 launched its StartRight program. The goal of the program is “to help newcomers open the door to their new start in Canada,” says Munsif Sheraly, Director of Multicultural Banking at Scotiabank. The program functions as a one-stop shop that helps newcomers with various aspects of their life in Canada. “From setting up your bank account and managing your money to investing for your future,” says Sheraly, “Scotiabank offers the right solutions and advice.”

“FROM SETTING UP YOUR BANK ACCOUNT AND MANAGING YOUR MONEY TO INVESTING FOR YOUR FUTURE, SCOTIABANK OFFERS THE RIGHT SOLUTIONS AND ADVICE.”

— Munsif Sheraly

Because Scotiabank has partnerships with financial institutions around the world, StartRight lets new Canadians open an account even before they arrive in this country. Newcomers can open accounts online before arriving from 16 countries — including Chile, Columbia, India, the U.K. and more — and transfer money into that account so it's available when they arrive in Canada. Enrico, a StartRight participant, set up a Scotiabank account before he and his family left their native Philippines. “From there we could start building our credit rating,” he says. “And when we got to Canada we had a credit card — absent a job, income or credit history — within a week's time.”

While every immigrant success story is unique, there are a few common factors



ISTOCK

when it comes to feeling financially settled in a new country. Intangible benefits, such as being able to speak to an advisor in your own language, can go a long way toward making newcomers feel comfortable in their adopted home. And because the StartRight program has been actively working with immigrant, foreign worker and international student communities for almost a decade, its advisors have a lot of experience serving newcomers and their unique needs.

Among the direct help StartRight offers: Newcomers who open an account through StartRight get \$300 in banking benefits. The program also offers specialty products — such as the StartRight mortgage program and the StartRight auto finance program. And its advisors work with various settlement agencies and local community groups to further help newcomers settle in. The Scotiabank StartRight program is available at any Scotiabank branch in Canada or by visiting scotiabank.com/newtocanada.



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TOP 150

CELEBRATING CANADA'S GIFTS TO THE WORLD

The write stuff

CANLIT

Ten books that helped shape Canadian culture

Rhonda Riche

Storytelling is part of the DNA of our country. From the oral histories passed down through generations of First Nations and Aboriginal families to the spending of long summer days lakeside reading a selection of short stories, a tale well told is one thing that unites all Canadians.

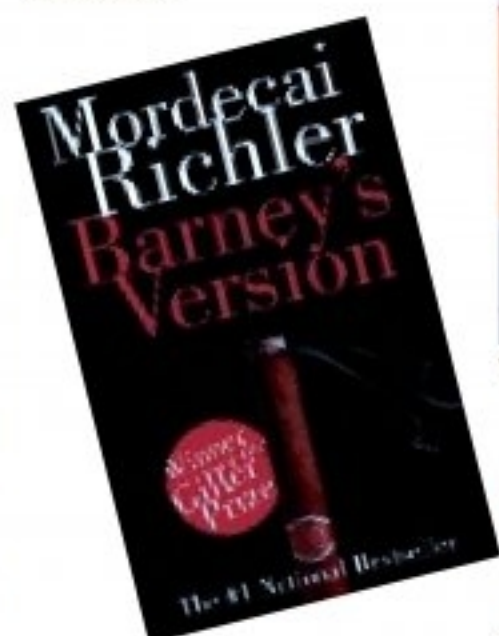
1 Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery

Even with endless musicals, movies and television shows (and a whole tourism industry) based on this red-headed heroine, the original book is best.



2 Barney's Version by Mordecai Richler

Richler's final novel, this funny, fictional autobiography of a Montreal-based TV producer was made into a movie in 2010 starring Paul Giamatti.



3 The Book of Negroes by Lawrence Hill

Based on a historical document of the same name, Hill's much-discussed novel examines the lives of Black Loyalists.



The Yann Martel novel *Life of Pi* was turned into a movie and released in November, 2012. ALL PHOTOS TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

4 Life of Pi by Yann Martel

This magical novel tells the tale of a young man who survives a shipwreck while immigrating from India to Canada only to be trapped on a life raft with a tiger.

5 Neuromancer by William Gibson

The science-fiction tale that spawned a whole new literary genre: cyberpunk.

6 Room by Emma Donoghue

This widely celebrated novel is written from the perspective of five-year-old Jack, who recounts the details of his everyday life only to reveal a harrowing existence.

8 The Wars by Timothy Findlay

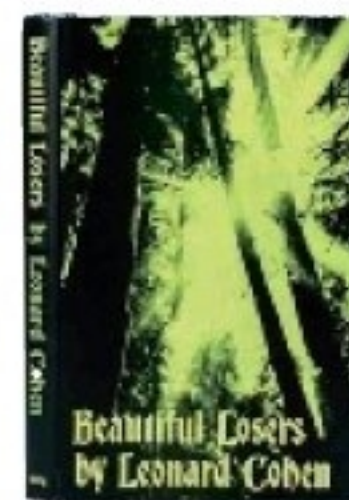
A gut-wrenching novel about a sensitive young man who enlists to serve the Canadian Army, and his commitment to humanity in the nightmarish trench warfare of World War One.

9 The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

This dystopian novel from 1985 helped establish Atwood as a major author. The new TV mini-series based on the book shows just how ahead of her time she was.

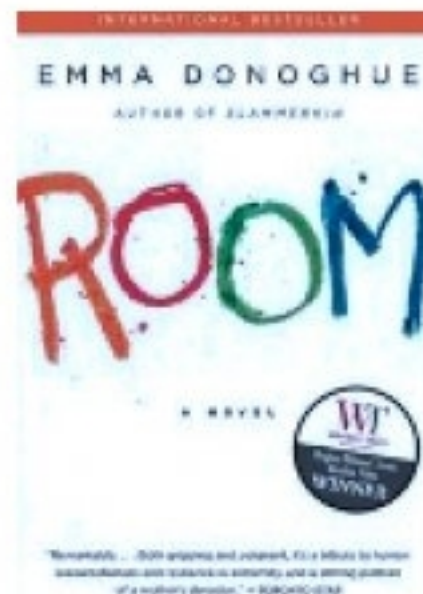
10 Beautiful Losers by Leonard Cohen

Long before he was serenading Suzanne, Cohen was a Montreal poet and author whose major work, this psychedelic 1966 novel, reportedly inspired Lou Reed, among others.



7 The Tin Flute by Gabrielle Roy

Set in the Saint-Henri slums of Montreal, this compassionate look at Quebec's underclasses helped spark the province's Quiet Revolution in the 1960s.



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The container gardener

GETTY IMAGES

URBAN GARDEN

Potted gardens growing faster than highrise condos

It isn't just condo-dwelling balcony gardeners who are planting up virtually everything that will hold soil. Patios, decks, front doors and walkways can also be enhanced with containers full of colour and food plants.

So what are the secrets to growing plants successfully in containers? Metro lets you in on them:

1 Get the right container

Whatever you pick to plant in, make sure it has adequate drainage. Water should move through the soil and out the hole in the bottom of the container efficiently, so your plants don't rot.

Where containers are concerned, the greater the soil mass, the better the performance of the plants. Steer clear of the tempting 10-inch hanging baskets. Large hangers — at least 14 inches in diameter — are so much better.

Potting up geraniums in your uncle's old boots might be cute, but his feet are not big enough to create a cavity for soil to sustain plant life very well. A half-barrel-sized container is better.

2 Find the perfect location

If your container is in full sun, plant sun-loving plants in it. This is more important in containers than the garden, as the strength of the sun intensifies "off the ground."

Look for dwarf zinnias, asparagus fern, petunias, million bells, scabiosa, lobelia and the list goes on.

On the other hand, perennial hosta makes a great containerized plant in the shade or partial shade. And with a little care, it will come back each year. As will many other perennials.

3 Choose quality soil

Remove last year's soil from your containers and spread it in your garden, where earthworms will pull it down and incorporate it into the rest of the soil. If you live in a condo, ask management if you can put it in the condo garden.

Don't leave it in the container two years in a row. That soil is tired; the nutrients in it are used up, but it is fine to spread over an established garden.

When looking for container mix, buy quality: you really get what you pay for. Choose a brand you trust. Quality soil drains well, is full of nutrients that help boost plant life throughout the growing season, and some mixes feature water-retaining abilities that reduce the frequency of water applications.

4 Water with rain water

Use a barrel to catch rain water and apply this to your plants throughout the season. Rain water is soft, charged with oxygen and almost always warm, which plants prefer.

If only plants could talk, they would tell us this. "I hate cold showers!" you'd hear them roar.

Allow container soil to dry to the touch between watering. When water evaporates or transpires through a plant, the space it takes in the soil is replaced with oxygen-rich air. All plants love this. Some plants,

like geraniums, prefer to get quite dry, but never bone dry. In time, you will learn what works best in your environment.

5 Fertilize

There are many options where "plant food" is concerned. The bottom line is that containerized plants demand more nutrients than "garden bound" plants, as their roots are limited by the walls of the container and the volume of soil at their roots.

You can often tell if a plant is hungry, especially late in the season when nutrients have been used up. Yellowing leaves, poorly performing flowers and a look of general malaise takes over a hungry plant. There are many fertilizers on the market, some synthetic and others natural, including a new organic that lasts all season long called ProMix Multi-Purpose Garden Fertilizer.

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metro SPORTS

Your essential daily news

Senators' offence ascends in Ottawa

EASTERN CONFERENCE FINAL

Red and black outburst puts Penguins back on their heels

The Ottawa Senators needed less than 13 minutes to put away Game 3 of the Eastern Conference final.

Ottawa got four goals past Marc-Andre Fleury in the first 12 minutes and 52 seconds — including the fastest three goals in team playoff history — and went on to top the Pittsburgh Penguins 5-1 Wednesday night at Canadian Tire Centre.

Kyle Turris, Derick Brassard, Mike Hoffman and Marc Methot each had a goal and an assist and Craig Anderson stopped 25 shots in the victory, which gives the Sens a 2-1 series edge with Game 4 ahead on Friday night.

Zack Smith also scored and Bobby Ryan had two helpers for Ottawa, who suddenly has the upper hand in a series most expected to go the Penguins way.

Sidney Crosby had the lone marker for Pittsburgh, which



The Penguins feel behind big early in Game 3 and couldn't recover in Kanata, Ont. JANA CHYTILOVA/FREESTYLE PHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

GAME 3 In Ottawa



has scored only three goals all series. Fleury gave up four on nine shots and was replaced by Matt Murray, who made

2017 NHL PLAYOFFS
SENATORS LEAD SERIES 2-1

19 saves.

Hosting their first Eastern Conference final game in 10 years, the Sens came out flying and scored after only 48 seconds. Hoffman got it by capitalizing on a Turris shot that bounced awkwardly wide of the goal. The 27-year-old stuffed the shot, standing to the left of the goal, just between the post and right pad of Fleury.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Gisele: Tom was concussed

Tom Brady played through a concussion last year on his way to a fifth Super Bowl title, according to his wife, supermodel Gisele Bündchen. The injury, which was not reported by the team, left her worried about how long he should continue to play football.

Asked if she wanted the quarterback to retire, Bündchen expressed concern "as a wife" in an interview on CBS This Morning Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Kershaw strikes down rival Giants

Clayton Kershaw took a share of the major league lead with his seventh win and earned career victory No. 20 against the rival Giants, helping the Los Angeles Dodgers avoid a sweep by beating San Francisco 6-1 on Wednesday.

Kershaw (7-2) struck out five in seven shutout innings and retired the first 10 batters he faced before Justin Ruggiano's fourth-inning single. The left-hander moved into a tie for most wins with Houston's Dallas Keuchel. Yasmani Grandal hit a two-run



Clayton Kershaw

GETTY IMAGES FILE

double in the first and Yasiel Puig singled in a pair of runs in the sixth as the Dodgers jumped on Johnny Cueto (4-3), who lost for the first time at home this season.

Kershaw allowed three hits and no walks for the fourth time in 2017. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Hearty Panzanella Salad



PHOTO: MAYA VISHNIE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



1/2 Tbsp dijon mustard
• salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Toss the first seven ingredients in your salad bowl first so that everything is evenly distributed.
2. Whisk together the last four ingredients in a small bowl until they are well combine.
3. There will be more dressing than you need, but you'll need more than you'd use for a regular salad as the bread will drink it up. Keep adding the dressing and tossing and tasting. You want to the bread to be moist and soften but not drowned by the dressing.

This hearty salad is delicious on its own, but feel free to make it into a more complete meal by topping it with chopped rotisserie chicken.

Ready in 15 minutes

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cooking time: 5 minutes

Ingredients

- 4 cups of slightly stale crusty bread, like baguette
- 4 tomatoes roughly chopped
- 1 cucumber peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 yellow pepper
- 1/2 red onion finely sliced or chopped
- 1/2 cup pitted black olives
- 1/2 cup or so of shaved parmesan
- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 red wine vinegar

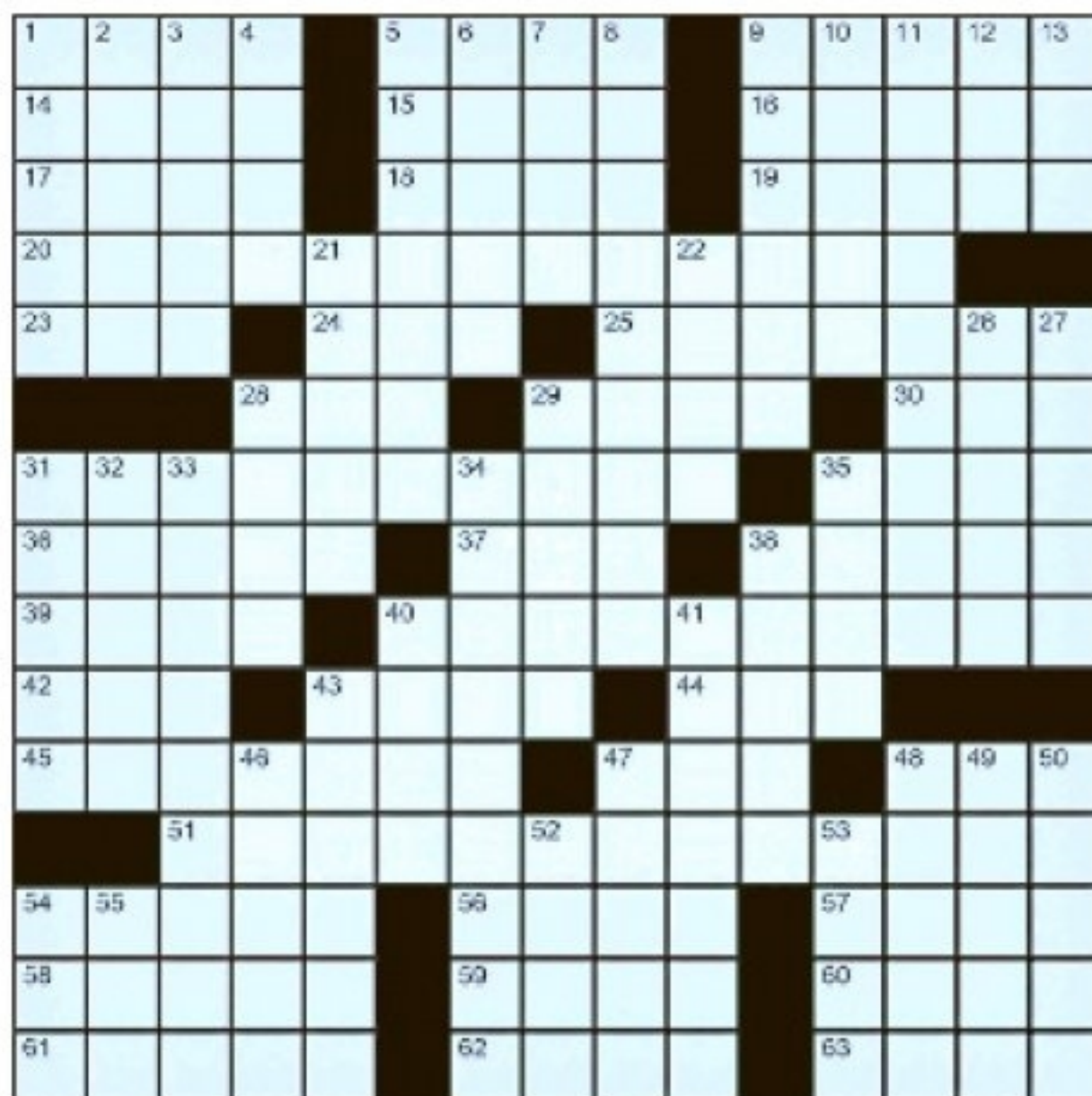
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Bird's crop
5. Shania Twain trophy, e.g.
9. Leg bone
14. Toy building block
15. Repenter
16. Stop!, in sailing
17. Finito
18. Env. info
19. Ceremonies
20. Ontario: __ Corners (Uniquely-named hamlet in Wilmot Township which is in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo)
23. Arrange
24. The Honourable Dr. Vivienne __, retired Canadian Senator
25. Garden chore
28. Mr. Wheaton
29. Love letter's envelope letters
30. "Golly."
31. Container for Canadian dairy brand Sealtest: 2 wds.
35. __ upswing
36. Mr. Sharif's
37. War on Poverty agcy.
38. Shipping container
39. "It's my turn": 2 wds.
40. Where to find deals on pre-owned vehicles: 2 wds.
42. Cleaning cloth
43. Baking meas.
44. Bean and Cool J
45. One sticking to the rules
47. Movies composer Francis
48. Air travel over-



- seer [acronym]
51. They cascade across the way in New York from Canada at Niagara: 2 wds.
54. "Like a Rolling Stone" __ Dylan
56. Phyllis Diller's husband's name from her stand-up act

57. See
58. Actor Nick
59. Lake, in Italy
60. Horse part
61. Once __ (Every seven days)
62. Vigour [abbr.]
63. Goulash

DOWN

1. Horseshoes-on-cobblestones noises
2. Variety show
3. Insurance __
4. Employment
5. Crayons creator
6. Jim of Blue Rodeo
7. Beatles' "Love

8. Vulcan County village in Alberta that's south-east of Calgary
9. Herb __ (TV character who wore loud suits)
10. Foliaged, as stone walls
11. Gotham City Police

- Department searchlight to summon The Dark Knight
12. 'Expert' suffix
13. Cadillac __ Sedan
21. Sagas
22. Mr. Cain
26. "Swell!"
27. Jean __ (The Balcony dramatist)
28. Cincinnati radio station for #9-Down
29. Heighty, as a hill
31. Ms. Shearer of "The Red Shoes" (1948)
32. Fuming one's statement: 2 wds.
33. Funny
34. Complained-about Canadian-manufactured infantry firearm of WWI: 2 wds.
35. Bruins legend Bobby's
38. San Diego's li'l state
40. Taxi alternative service
41. Loud noisiness, States-style
43. "Jeopardy!" host Alex
46. Theatrically overact
47. Actress, Jessica __
48. Parade route display
49. Solo
50. Awry
52. James of "Misery" (1990)
53. Donations
54. Passed in 1867, it made Canada [acronym]
55. "Ouch!"

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Be prepared to act on an unexpected opportunity in publishing, the media, medicine, the law or anything to do with training and higher education. You will have to act quickly.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You might see new and innovative ways to approach an inheritance or shared property. Be open. The rigid tree is the first to snap in a storm.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Difficulties in partnerships and close friendships suddenly might reveal a solution or a way to feel more free. Whatever presents itself will have a brief window of opportunity.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
New ideas that are imaginative and original might help you at work. Similarly, new ideas also might give you a boost to your health. Keep an open mind (but not so open that everything falls out).

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
A new approach to working with children might arise now. Whatever happens will be a welcome change.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You might see new ways to make improvements where you live. You might even decide to move to a new place. It's possible that family news will surprise you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A surprise opportunity to change jobs or residences might fall in your lap. If so, be ready to act quickly, because the window of opportunity is brief.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You might see improved and innovative ideas about how to earn money. You might improve your current job or get a better job — who knows?

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You are pumped with enthusiasm because you see a way to make a breakthrough in a new area that you are exploring. Something definitely will expand your world, and it's exciting!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
After giving up so much for others, you are starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Something ahead looks promising!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
New friends and contacts with groups and organizations might change your world. You will expand it in a way that makes you feel more in touch with how things are done.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Surprise opportunities that can help you in your career are now at hand. Don't hesitate to take them. (You might not get a second chance.)

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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